



DOE DIALOGUE | Weekly Message from Superintendent Ritz

February 11, 2014

I am resending two important communications regarding instructional time and assessments. Please carefully read the attachments and note that I have added some information below regarding "Conditional Waivers."

*** ISTEP+ testing window...**

Due to unprecedented weather-related school delays and closings, the State Board of Education approved an extension of the March ISTEP Applied Skills testing window and the IREAD 3 testing window. [See the attached memo.](#)

DOE Guidance regarding make up of lost instructional days...

Unusually severe winter weather has caused Indiana's public schools to cancel a number of student instructional days. Because of this extraordinary situation, the Department of Education is issuing guidelines to take effect immediately and expire June 30, 2014.

[See the attached memo.](#) [See the attached waiver application.](#)

Conditional Waiver and teacher contracts

Before implementing a calendar that adds additional instructional time to a regularly scheduled school day, it is important to remember that individual teacher contracts now define the number of hours teachers are required to work each day. A school corporation should not unilaterally decide to add time and may want to enter into a MOU or a Letter of Assurance with the local association.

Keep in touch. Feel free to leave comments at doecomm@doe.in.gov.

Sincerely,

Glenda Ritz, Superintendent of Public Instruction

NOTE: * indicates data information requirements for ALL public schools, including charter schools.

Memorandum

MEMORANDUM: The 2013-2014 Excellence in Performance award, totaling \$2 million, is administered by the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) and awarded to school corporations and charter schools for "Effective" and "Highly Effective" teachers in "Focus" and "Priority" schools. To be eligible, a school corporation or charter school must be using a teacher evaluation plan that meets the requirements for evaluation plans established in IC 20-28-11.5. This award cycle is non-competitive. All qualifying schools will receive funds so long as the proper paperwork and documentation is submitted by the deadline. Please see the [attached application](#) for directions. Applications are due by 5:00 pm EST on February 28, 2014. ([see application](#))

MEMORANDUM: Hoosier Heroine Contest, write a 500 to 700 word essay as to who is your heroine from Indiana and why and possibly win a visit with the first ladies of Indiana. Students in grades 6 - 9 can write an essay about your Hoosier Heroine for a chance to visit the Indiana Statehouse as a special guest of First Lady Karen Pence, Lt. Governor Sue Ellsperman, Secretary of State Connie Lawson, Superintendent of Public Instruction Glenda Ritz and State Auditor Suzanne Crouch. Essays must be submitted by Friday, February 21, 2014. See the attachment for further instructions. ([attachment](#))

MEMORANDUM: Indiana Department of Education Announces Summer Food Service Plans: The 2013, the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) provided over 3 million free meals and snacks to low-income children across the state. The Indiana Department of Education is encouraging current program sponsors to expand their programs by adding

new feeding sites and extending meal service throughout the entire 2014 summer break. Limited availability of meal sites and a lack of transportation continue to be obstacles in both rural Indiana and heavily populated cities. The IDOE is encouraging innovative partnerships between local government, school corporations, community organizations and private sector groups. The IDOE will host multiple training workshops for sponsors in Indianapolis and around the state. Attendance is required by all new and returning sponsoring agencies. To attend a workshop, please contact Marcia Yurczyk or Tina Skinner at the Indiana Department of Education at (317) 232-6610 or by email at myurczyk@doe.in.gov or tskinner@doe.in.gov. While additional feeding sites may be added by sponsors throughout the summer, the deadline to become a SFSP sponsor is April 30, 2014. For more information on the SFSP view the webpage at <http://www.doe.in.gov/nutrition/summer-food-service-program>.

MEMORANDUM: Requesting Recommendations for the [Talent Pool](#). The State of Indiana maintains a file of emerging classroom leaders that consists of a cadre of distinguished teachers and principals. These educators may be considered for membership on advisory boards and task forces, as well as candidates for special recognition programs. Your recommendations will identify educators who will be of great value to your community and state and who may also ultimately receive prestigious recognition for their contributions and achievements. I urge you to take the time to recommend candidates. If necessary, please assign the request to an associate. Complete information must be sent by April 3, 2014 to: Sara Pies at spies@doe.in.gov ([see application](#))

MEMORANDUM: The American Academy of Pediatrics ([AAP](#)) is seeking participants for the third cohort of the Enhancing School Health Services through Training, Education, Assistance, Mentorship, and Support (TEAMS) project. Through the TEAMS project, the AAP provides customized training, resources, and technical assistance to school districts that are interested in strengthening policies, practices, and infrastructure related to school health services. Public school districts that provide health services (nursing services) for students, excluding charter districts, are eligible to apply. Please [click here](#) for more details about the project and application instructions. The deadline to apply is Friday, March 14, 2014. If you have any questions about this project, please contact Laura DeStigter, Program Manager, at 847/434-7127 or at ldestigter@aap.org ([see application](#))

MEMORANDUM:

College- and Career-Readiness Assessment Implementation

During the 2013 legislative session, the Indiana General Assembly passed [HEA 1005](#), and the Governor signed PL 268-2013 into law. A component of this law ([IC 20-32-9](#)) requires public and state-accredited nonpublic school students who meet specific criteria to take a college- and career-readiness exam and potentially receive remediation. The assessment selected to meet the requirements of this law for the 2013-14 school year is ACCUPLACER Diagnostics. State Board of Education discussed IC 20-32-9 ([HEA 1005](#)) and the implementation guidance for spring 2014. As the statute specifically requires juniors to participate in a college- and career-readiness assessment (based on qualification criteria), Superintendent Ritz and her fellow Board members asked the IDOE to clarify the following for the field:

Please note that sophomores are not required to participate in ACCUPLACER Diagnostics during the spring of 2014.

Please also note that as this is a pilot year, we look forward to speaking with CTCs, guidance counselors, and others to gather feedback on the first round of implementation. Watch for more information in the coming months. Due to weather-related issues, the ACCUPLACER Diagnostics Training sessions on February 5 at Hammond were cancelled. If you were scheduled to attend one of the sessions at Hammond, or if you have not yet accessed the recorded training and you would like to join a live webinar, please see below for details.

Additional ACCUPLACER Diagnostics Training Webinar

Wednesday, February 12, 2014

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Click on this link to register

<https://collegeboardtraining.webex.com/collegeboardtraining/onstage/g.php?p=40&t=m>

IDOE contacts for this program include Amanda Culhan (aculhan@doe.in.gov), Dr. Leslie Fatum (lfatum@doe.in.gov), and Adam Mastrucci (amastrucci@doe.in.gov).

[2013-14 Qualification Criteria for ACCUPLACER Diagnostics Participation](#)

Information From Other Agencies

The National Endowment for the Humanities "Landmarks in American History and Culture" Workshop The Most Southern Place on Earth: Music, History, and Culture of the Mississippi Delta will be offered June 22-28 and July 13-19, 2014, by the Delta Center for Culture and Learning at Delta State University in Cleveland, MS. Come explore the blues, civil rights, the great migration, and the river at their source. Participants receive a stipend of \$1200 towards their expenses and can also receive five graduate credit hours at virtually no

cost. www.deltacenterforcultureandlearning.com

The Indiana Academy Spring 2014 Adventure Programs

The Indiana Academy has opened registration for our Spring 2014 Saturday Adventure Programs through our Youth Enrichment Program series. This spring we will be hosting programs for students in first through eighth grades. We will also be hosting our fourth program in our Parent Program Series. These programs are designed to be educational and enriching, providing hands on approaches to content that is not always possible within a classroom settings. Our hopes is that these programs encourage students to dig deeper into their education and enhances their critical thinking skills. Please visit our website to view our Spring 2014 programs and to register! <http://www.bsu.edu/academy/youth/>
We're on Facebook! Check out pictures from previous programs, stay up to date with news, and give us a "like"! <https://www.facebook.com/TheIndianaAcademyOfficeOfOutreach>
If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Sheri Niekamp by email (sniekamp@bsu.edu) or by phone (800-316-3163 ext 6).

Legislative Updates

The state legislature just began it's second half Legislation The Indiana Dept. of Education is currently following that may interest Superintendents and Principals around Indiana.

HB1319 EDUCATION MATTERS (**Behning, Robert**) - Repeals a provision that establishes an expiration date of January 1, 2015, for the commission on education (commission). Provides that the commission may study and evaluate issues relating to the education of the citizens of Indiana. Changes the date, from December 1 to November 1, on which the commission's final report is due. Makes conforming amendments. Requires the department of education (department) to disaggregate from the ISTEP program test results the percentage of students in each school and each grade who are identified as high ability students by the school corporation who achieved a score in the highest performance level designated for the ISTEP program test. Requires the department to develop a format for school corporations to publish, as part of the school corporation's annual report, the percentage of students in each school and each grade who are identified as high ability students and also achieved a score in the highest performance level designated for the ISTEP test. Requests the legislative council to assign certain topics to the commission.
Amendments:
For Study Only ,student discipline and the suspension, expulsion, or exclusion of a student from school.
For Study Only, during the 2014 legislative interim the topics of:
(1)
requirements for schools to make up time for days on which the start of the school day was delayed;
andâ€“(2) school start times in general; in relation to academic achievement, student safety, and parental work schedules.

Current Status: 01/30/2014 Referred to Senate

HB1349 CLASSROOM EXPENSE PROGRAM (Smaltz Ben) Establishes the classroom expense fund to provide advances to educators for amounts expended on classroom supplies. Provides that money from the fund be used to supplement, not replace, the money otherwise being used for classroom supplies. Provides that any money in the fund is continually appropriated.

Current Status: 01/27/2014 Committee Report do pass, adopted.

HB1210 TEACHER LOAN REPAYMENT (Moed Justin) Provides an educational loan repayment for a public elementary or high school teacher who: (1) was in the highest 20% of the individual's high school graduating classes or in the top twentieth percentile on the SAT or ACT examination; (2) graduated from college with at least a 3.5 grade point average; and (3) teaches science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or special education, or teaches in a critical shortage geographic area; in a public school in Indiana. Provides that at the end of the third consecutive year the teacher teaches, the commission for higher education makes a payment of \$9,000 or the balance of the teachers student loans (whichever is less) directly to the financial institution that holds the teachers student loans. 1210 was reassigned to the House Ways and Means committee.

Current Status: 01/27/2014 Representative Bob Behning added as coauthor. Committee Report do pass, adopte

HB1233 BACKGROUND CHECKS BY SCHOOLS (Thompson J) Makes changes to the definition of "expanded criminal history check". Provides that an employee of a school corporation, a charter school, or an

accredited nonpublic school must receive an expanded criminal history check every five years.

Current Status: 01/29/2014 Senator Kruse added as sponsor

01/29/2014 Senator Broden added as cosponsor

01/29/2014 Senator Yoder added as cosponsor

01/28/2014 Referred to Senate

01/28/2014 Passed Indiana House Roll Call yeas 93, nays 0

SB159

CHARTER SCHOOLS (Kenley Luke) Adds a definition of an "adult high school". Repeals a provision that prohibits the establishment of new adult high schools. Provides that, after June 30, 2014, before an authorizer may grant a charter to establish or renew a charter for an adult high school, the organizer must have the proposal to establish the charter school: (1) approved by the state board of education; and (2) reviewed by the budget committee. Requires a charter for an adult high school to contain certain requirements. Provides that, with certain exceptions, for state fiscal years beginning after June 30, 2014, an adult high school is not entitled to receive funding from the state unless the general assembly enacts an appropriation for the adult high school. Provides that an adult high school is subject to alternative accountability system established by the state board. Provides that certain authorizers may collect a 3% administrative fee from the amount appropriated to an adult high school (Current law provides that an authorizer may collect the administrative fee from the charter schools basic tuition support)

Current Status: The Senate Committee on Education and Career Development, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 159, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the Senate with the recommendation that said bill be AMENDED

SB 159 passes committee 10 yeas 0 nays after amendments

01-30-14 Representative Huston added second sponsor.

01-30-14 Representative Tim Brown added as first sponsor

01-30-14 purpose the representative Terry Goodin added as third sponsor

01-28-14 Senator Randolph added as co-author

01-28-14 Bill Referred to House

([click on SB 159 for Amendments](#))

SB276

MUSIC COURSES IN SCHOOL CURRICULUM. (Kruse Dennis) Requires each school corporation to offer music classes as part of the school corporation's curriculum. Requires each school corporation to include music ensembles for grade 7 through grade 12.

Current Status:

02/03/14 SB 276 on second reading in Senate

01/30/14 Committee Report passes

01/28/14 Senator Altig added as coauthor (See Amendments)

SB331

SECOND SERVICE FOR VETERANS (Glick Susan)

Establishes the second service for veterans program to attract veteran students to the teaching profession. Requires a state educational institution to adopt a policy to award educational credit to a veteran or an individual serving in the armed forces of the United States or the Indiana National Guard who completes courses: (1) at a postsecondary educational institution accredited by a regional accrediting agency or association; and (2) that meet the state educational institution's role, scope, and mission. Requires a state educational institution to adopt a policy to award educational credit to a veteran or an individual serving in the armed forces of the United States or the Indiana National Guard who completes certain college equivalency examinations that meet the state educational institution's role, scope, and mission. Provides that the state educational institution's policy must provide that educational credit awarded to an individual applies to the individual's degree requirements if the credit is comparable and applicable to credit necessary for the individual to meet the individual's degree requirements.

Current Status: 01/30/2014 Representative Zent added as sponsor.

SB 331 passed committee with 11 Yeas 0 Nays (See Amendments)

SB 344

SCHOOL BUILDING SAFETY (Hume, Lindel) - Establishes the division of school building physical security and safety (division) within the department of education (department). Requires the division to develop and maintain nonbinding guidelines for new buildings or facilities used in the operation or administration of a school corporation. Provides that a school corporation may request the division to make physical security or safety recommendations for the renovation, repair, or alteration of an existing building or facility used in the operation or administration of the school corporation. Requires a school corporation to consider guidelines developed by the division when developing plans and specifications for the construction, renovation, or alteration of a school facility. Provides that the department may include in the department's central

clearinghouse at least one model prototype design for the construction of a school facility that complies with the guidelines developed by the division.

Current Status: 01/22/2014 Senate Education and Career Development, (Bill Scheduled for Hearing)

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